

Special Fishing Licenses

Warm Water Game Fish Stamp

The stamp is required to fish in designated waters (see list of designated waters in each District Standard Regulations). Resident youth under 15 years of age, residents 62 years of age and older, and resident disabled anglers are exempt.

Resident and Nonresident \$5.00

District Standard Regulations list the waters that require this stamp.

Paddlefish

All anglers must purchase a paddlefish tag to fish for paddlefish. To purchase a tag: Residents aged 15-61 must have a valid Conservation License and Fishing License. Resident youth 14 and younger and resident anglers over 62 must have a Conservation License.

Nonresidents of any age, including youth 14 and younger, must have a valid Conservation License and a Fishing License. Limit of one tag (one fish) per person.

Resident - \$6.50 each Nonresident - \$15 each

Bull Trout

Hungry Horse Reservoir, Lake Koocanusa and part of the South Fork Flathead River are open for a regulated and experimental bull trout angling season. When fishing for bull trout each angler must have in possession a valid Bull Trout Catch Card for the specific water he/she is fishing. ***Anglers may select only one of the following areas: A) Lake Koocanusa, or B) Hungry Horse Reservoir and South Fork Flathead River.*** Swan Lake is open to angling for bull trout without a special permit. All other waters are closed to intentional angling for bull trout year around.

Catch Cards are free of charge and are available at the FWP Region One office in Kalispell. Applications for a catch card are available at the FWP Region One office or online at fwp.mt.gov. Completed applications must be presented at the regional headquarters or mailed to FWP Bull Trout Permit, 490 North Meridian, Kalispell MT 59901.

Montana Resident With Disability

Resident Person With a Disability Conservation License - \$8

Must be permanently and substantially disabled. Applications and licenses available only at regional FWP offices. Allows the holder to fish. These licenses are not available to nonresidents.

Lifetime Fishing License for the Blind - \$10

Contact the Helena FWP Licensing office for information and an application.

Veterans Administration Patients

Permits are available for patients residing at VA Hospitals and residents of State institutions, except the State penitentiary. These free permits are available on-site at the VA hospital or State institution.

Legion of Valor

A Conservation License allows both residents and non-residents, regardless of age, to fish.

Legion of Valor membership card required to qualify. Available only at FWP offices.

Care Facility

The manager or director of an eligible facility licensed in Montana may apply for permission to take supervised residents fishing during activities approved by the facility. Licensed facilities include long-term care, personal care, home for persons with developmental disabilities and home for persons with severe disabilities.

Education Exemptions

Free fishing license exemptions are available to qualified educational events and fishing clinics.

For information on these free educational exemptions, call 406-444-9736.

Purple Heart

- Residents who have been awarded a Purple Heart, regardless of age, may fish and hunt upland game birds with a conservation license issued by the Department.
- Nonresidents who have been awarded a Purple Heart, regardless of age, may fish and hunt upland game birds with a conservation license issued by the Department during expeditions arranged by a nonprofit organization that uses fishing and hunting as part of rehabilitation.
- Verification of Purple Heart and DD 214 Form required to qualify. Residents only available at FWP offices. Nonresidents only available at FWP Headquarters in Helena.

Other Permit Requirements and Laws

State School Trust Lands

Your conservation license provides anglers, hunters and trappers access to legally accessible State School Trust Lands for fishing and hunting. Other recreational activities such as hiking and bird watching still require the \$10 state and recreational use permit. These activities cannot, by Federal statute, be covered by the conservation license. Additional information regarding the rules, regulations, and restrictions governing these activities is available from FWP or contact DNRC at 406-444-2074.

- On lands outside designated campgrounds there is a 2-day camping limit.
- Motorized travel is only allowed on public roads or on designated roads.
- No open fires are allowed except in designated campground fire pits. Contained mechanical heat sources are allowed.

Aquatic Invertebrates

Crayfish/Mussels

A valid fishing license is required to harvest crayfish for personal use (see "Licenses to Fish in Montana" for specific license requirements). Crayfish may be taken in traps no larger than 24x12x12 inches. Commercial harvest of crayfish or mussels is prohibited.

Commercial Fishing Licenses

Commercial Whitefish Fishing: A permit is required to sell whitefish.

Hook and Line Permits: Whitefish may be taken by hook and line for sale in the following waters--Flathead Lake north of the Flathead Reservation boundary, Flathead River north of Flathead Lake, Fisher River, Kootenai River, and Whitefish Lake.

Net/Seine Permits: Whitefish may be taken from the Kootenai River and tributaries (within one mile of the Kootenai River). Application required; fee is \$200 plus a \$1,000 bond per year.

Collecting Aquatic Invertebrates Commercially

Persons wishing to collect aquatic invertebrates (such as leeches and aquatic insects) for sale or commercial distribution should contact their regional FWP office for information.

Mussels

In accordance with the Administrative Rules of Montana, Section 12.2.501, it is unlawful to take or possess freshwater mussels or their shells for sale or commercial distribution.

Bait Fish Seining: Commercial Harvest, \$10 Fee

Contact regional FWP offices for a Bait Fish Seining License and a list of waters open to commercial seining: \$10 fee per year.

A bait fish seining license is required:

- For persons 15 years of age and older to seine for and transport bait fish for commercial purposes in Montana;
- For any person who seines for and has in his/her possession more than 24 dozen nongame bait fish.

Nongame bait fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) may be harvested commercially and transported in accordance with Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) Section 12.7.201-12.7.206. Live bait fish or leeches may not be imported into Montana for commercial or other purposes unless authorized by FWP. Bait fish may not be exported without FWP authorization. Call 406-452-6181 or go online at fwp.mt.gov for more information.

Fishing Contests

A permit from FWP is required for most fishing contests. Contact your local FWP office for information and an application or download an application from the FWP Web site.

Hoop Net Fishing Permit

A permit is required to use hoop nets. Permits are only available in the Eastern Fishing District. Contact FWP offices in Billings, Glasgow or Miles City for information.

Import Permits for Fish

A permit is required to import live fish into Montana. Contact the FWP Fish Health Lab in Great Falls at 406-452-6181 or download an application from the FWP Web site.

Private Fish Ponds – License Requirements, \$10 Fee for 10 years

A person who owns or lawfully controls a private fish pond may obtain a license from FWP to stock the pond with fish. Only lawfully purchased fish may be planted. Contact your local FWP office for more information and an application or download the application from the FWP Web site. No fishing license is required to fish on licensed, privately stocked fish ponds. Fishing license requirements apply to all other ponds and/or waters on private land.

Koi and goldfish ponds must be registered with FWP. Registration forms are available online at fwp.mt.gov/fishing/license/ponds.html or from all FWP offices. There is no fee for registering a pond.

Unattended Fishing Devices

Any unattended fishing device (crayfish traps, minnow traps, fish traps, setlines, etc.) must have attached to it the angler's name and phone number or ALS#.